

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03
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R 121856Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, MO

SUBJECT:PHOSPHATES--MOROCCAN VIEWS OF UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS
REF: A) GENEVA 12003, B) RABAT 6906, C) RABAT 6388,
-D) STATE 26718

1. THE SECOND UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONSULTATION ON PHOS-
PHATES IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26-31, 1978, IN GENEVA. THE
MEETING, TO BE HELD AT THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS,
IS TASKED WITH EXAMINING THE WORLD PHOSPHATE MARKET,
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DETERMINING POSSIBLE APPROPRIATE MEASURES, AND RECOMMEND-
ING WHETHER TO HOLD A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.

2. FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING (REF A) WAS NOTABLY UNPRO-
DUCTIVE DUE TO ABSENCE OF MOROCCO, WORLD'S LARGEST
EXPORTER OF PHOSPHATE ROCK. MOROCCAN MFA SUBSEQUENTLY
ATTRIBUTED THE NO-SHOW TO BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN MFA AND OCP, IRRECONCILABLE PRIOR TO DECEMBER MEETING (REF B). OTHER CONTRIBUTING MOTIVES MIGHT HAVE INCLUDED: 1) RELUCTANCE TO PUBLICLY FACE CONSUMERS CERTAIN TO RECALL (AND PERHAPS DWELL UPON) OCP-INITIATED PRICE RUN-UPS OF 1973-74, AND 2) SENSITIVITY ON SAHARAN SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE, WHICH MIGHT SURFACE SINCE ALGERIANS ARE ACTIVE IN UNCTAD PARLEYS AND THE AREA CONTAINS

SIZEABLE PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS.

3. SIGNALS RECENTLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING GOM ATTENDANCE AT NEXT PREPARATORY HAVE BEEN MIXED. IN A MARCH MEETING WITH DEPTOFFS, MOUSA SAADI (MOROCCAN MINISTER OF MINES) INDICATED WITHOUT ELABORATING THAT GOM WOULD PARTICIPATE IN JUNE PREPARATORY. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, THOUGH, ALI BOUKHRIS (DIRGEN OF INDUSTRIE; CHIMIQUES MAGHREBINES) EXPRESSED TUNISIA'S DESIRE TO APPROACH MOROCCO ON THE UNCTAD TALKS, BUT UNDERLINED THE "EXTREME ALOOFNESS" OF OCP DIRECTOR LAMRANI, THUS CONFIRMING CURRENT OCP INDIFFERENCE TO ATTITUDES OF SMALLER PRODUCERS (REPORTED IN PARA 5 REF C).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S TAKING A QUIET SOUNDING ON GOM'S INTENTIONS REGARDING NEXT UNCTAD CONSULTATION. IN DOING SO, EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARA 2
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REF D AND NOTE THAT US CONTINUES TO VIEW UNCTAD AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD PHOSPHATE MARKET AND POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL MEASURES. VANCE

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